

**LWN**

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS GROUP

Chelsea NEWS

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Thursday, December 4th 2014

**See Jerry Hall as The Wicked Queen in pantomime**

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Russians snapping up prime real estate again

... AND THE CHINESE ARE ALSO BUYING SUPER HOMES

RUSSIAN house-buyers are flooding back to Chelsea, buying up luxury homes as asking prices in the area rocket to £30 million for a terraced house and £5.6 million for a one-bedroom flat.

New research by top estate agents Knight Frank has revealed that one in five sales in London's 'super-prime' areas including Chelsea and Kensington have

● By LWN reporter GEOFF BAKER

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gone to Russian buyers.

"The Russians are back," said Tim Wright of Knight Frank's Prime Central London Team.

"After a period of uncertainty and instability, they appear to have more clarity on where they stand, which has given them the confidence to get back into the market."

Big pockets needed

In the six months to October, Russian bought 21 per cent of London's super-prime, £10 million+ homes – an 8 per cent rise compared to the previous six months.

Between January and October this year the number of Knight Frank transactions of £10 million+ homes has shot up by 33 per cent on last year – and is up by 92 per cent on two years ago.

Knight Frank's research has also revealed that for the first time mainline Chinese buyers are busy buying super-homes, now accounting for 3 per cent of sales

after 'negligible demand' from China before.

"We are beginning to see some serious interest from ultra-high net worth mainland Chinese buyers," said Tim Wright.

"This interest seems to be in houses rather than flats or investment properties; these are buyers who clearly intend to spend time living in London with their families."

Knight Frank says prices of £10 million+ properties have risen by 48 per cent in the last five years.

Big pockets will be needed to buy the latest luxury home on the market in Tregunter Road, SW10 – where a six-bed Victorian terraced house is now selling for £30 million. The house, in the heart of The Boltons conservation area and sold through Russell Simpson of Chelsea, has an indoor swimming pool and gym.

Just up the road at One Hyde Park, Harrods Estates are selling a second floor, one-bedroom flat for £5.6 million at 100 Knightsbridge. The large flat, of 1,027 sq ft, has one reception room and one bathroom.

Other high price homes now on the market in Chelsea include a four-bed penthouse at Chelsea Harbour, selling through Foxtons for £9,950,000, a four-

**■ YOURS FOR £30 MILLION: A six bedroom Victorian house in Tregunter Road, SW10**

bed maisonette in Hans Place, SW1, for £13 million through John D Wood, and the leasehold on a three-bed maisonette in Eaton Place, SW1, through Beauchamp Estates for £11 million.

Three years ago Russian billionaire and Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich paid £90 million for his 15-bedroom home in Kensington Palace Gardens.

**■ ROMAN ABRAMOVICH - one of Chelsea's most high profile residents**

Mayor's charity carol service

**■ JANE ASHER - one of the readers**

THE Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds, held her annual charity carol service, at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, on Tuesday.

Actress Jane Asher and journalist Sir Simon Jenkins were amongst those giving readings between the carols. They were joined by Jacob Rees-Mogg MP and former professional footballer Sol Campbell.

Afterwards mince pies were served in the Lower Hall of St.

Columba's Church.

All proceeds went to the charity SANE.

The Mayor said: "More and more lives are affected by mental illness, yet all too often people pass over it.

"SANE, the charity I've chosen to support during my mayoral year, works to improve the quality of life for anyone affected by mental illness as well as raise awareness of the condition."

High-riding Blues can have a Christmas party this year

LAST Christmas Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho cancelled his players' Christmas party after a shock defeat at Sunderland.

But this year, with the Blues riding high at the top of the Premier Division, Jose has turned from Scrooge to Santa and allowed the players to have their festive bash.

But it will be a family occasion rather than a boozy night out with the club organising a traditional party for wives, partners and children, recognition of Chelsea's excellent form, having gone 19 games with defeat this season.

● This Week at Stamford Bridge - see page 28

THE paper serving the HEART of London

Christmas with the Mayor of London

THE Mayor of London is supporting a series of free events to help Londoners and visitors to the capital celebrate Christmas and bring in the New Year.

Boris Johnson says: "London is one of the best places in the world to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, with hundreds of events and activities taking place across the city. From ice skating at iconic locations to carol singing concerts and services, seasonal pantomime to outstanding theatre, and Christmas markets to fine shopping, London has something for everyone."

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Thursday 4 December 2014 18:00hrs
Trafalgar Square

The annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will take place in Trafalgar Square, accompanied by the Salvation Army and St Martin-in-the-Fields Choir. The tree is a gift from the Norwegian capital of Oslo to the citizens of London, given as a gift for over 60 years as a token of gratitude for Britain's support during World War II. The tree is set to be in place until Sunday 4 January 2015. After being taken down the tree will be chipped and composted, for recycling as mulch. www.london.gov.uk/events

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Sunday 7 December 17:30 – 18:30
Trafalgar Square

Join a torch-lit procession on the steps of St Martin-in-the-Fields, as the choir and clergy bless the

Crib in a special ceremony in Trafalgar Square. The Crib is designed by Tomoaki Suzuki, with figures inspired by London's diverse population. It will be on display in the square throughout December. For more information, please visit www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org

TRAFALGAR SQUARE CAROLS

Monday 8 - Tuesday 23 December
Trafalgar Square

The popular annual carol singing programme organised by the Mayor of London takes place on the Square, with charities and other organisations able to raise funds for good causes. More than 50 carol groups will be taking part, so come and enjoy some traditional songs and more modern festive favourites beneath the Christmas tree. Performances take place from 4pm-8pm weekdays, and 2pm-6pm weekends. More information can be found at www.london.gov.uk/events

MAYOR'S CAROL SERVICE

Monday 15 December 19:00
Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, London SE1 9DA

This year's Mayor's Carol Service begins at 7pm and will feature a variety of musical performances, alongside traditional congregational Christmas carols and readings. The event is free and members of the public are welcome to attend. Please note that a ticket will be needed for entry, which will be available from www.london.gov.uk. It is advised to arrive early as seats fill up quickly. Doors open at 6.15pm.

CHANUKAH: LIGHTING OF THE MENORAH

Tuesday 16 December 17:30 – 19:30

Trafalgar Square

See the giant menorah lit up with candles for the Chanukah London event, in celebration of the Jewish festival of lights. The menorah will be on display at Trafalgar Square until 27 December. The menorah holds nine candles – one of which is lit each night – plus one in the middle to light the others. More information can be found at www.london.gov.uk

LONDON NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Wednesday 31 December

London's hugely popular New Year's Eve fireworks display attracts enormous crowds, the majority of whom are unable to get a good view. It is being ticketed for the first time to help manage crowd numbers and ensure it can continue for the longer term as a safe and enjoyable event. Tickets carry an administration fee of £10 each and need to be booked via www.london.gov.uk/nye. People without a ticket will not be able to get into the viewing areas, but can still watch it live on BBC One. Across the capital there are also hundreds of other celebratory events and activities taking place in bars, pubs, restaurants and clubs. Wherever revellers bring in the New Year, they should plan ahead, as many venues will be ticketed with advance booking required, especially in central London. Public transport will be the best way to get



around the capital on the night. For tips about what to do on New Year's Eve: www.visitlondon.com/newyearseve.

NEW YEAR'S DAY PARADE

Thursday 1 January 2015 12:00 – 15:15

Central London

More than 8,500 performers representing 20 countries worldwide will take part in the annual parade, including marching bands, cheerleaders, clowns, acrobats and much more. The parade will kick off at Piccadilly and finish in Parliament Square taking in Lower Regent Street, Pall Mall, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall. For more details please go to: lndp.com



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020 7641 2000

Business line
General Enquiries

020 7641 7000

020 7641 6000

Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

Business News

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea business newsletter is sent out monthly and keeps you up-to-date with:

- ◆ Special offers and discounts for businesses
- ◆ Advice for SMEs and start-ups
- ◆ Events and training opportunities
- ◆ Ways to help support the community and develop your CSR policy
- ◆ Commercial services available to businesses.

In the November 2014 edition: Prepare for NYE fireworks / Meet the buyers and pitch for new business / Regent Street road closures

Kensington & Chelsea

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020 7361 2390

accessible.transport@rbkc.gov.uk

Arts & Leisure

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artsandleisure@rbkc.gov.uk

Benefits

020 7361 3006

benefits@rbkc.gov.uk

Council Tax

020 7361 3005

counciltax@rbkc.gov.uk

Electoral Services

020 7361 3444

elect@rbkc.gov.uk

Education

020 7361 3009

education@rbkc.gov.uk

Environmental Health

020 7361 3002

environmentalhealth@rbkc.gov.uk

Family Information Services

0207 361 3302

fis@rbkc.gov.uk

Housing

020 7361 3008

housing@rbkc.gov.uk

Land Charges

020 7361 3554

Libraries

020 7361 3010

information@rbkc.gov.uk

Parking - general enquiries

020 7361 3004

parking@rbkc.gov.uk

Parking - penalty charges

020 7361 4383

parking@rbkc.gov.uk

Parking - permit (new applications)

020 7361 4381

residentparking@rbkc.gov.uk

Parking - permit (renewals)

020 7361 3019

residentparking@rbkc.gov.uk

Patient Advice & Liaison Service

020 8962 4547

Planning

020 7361 3012

planning@rbkc.gov.uk

Registrars

020 7361 4100

chelsea.registerooffice@rbkc.gov.uk

Streetline

020 7361 3001

streetline@rbkc.gov.uk

Social Services

020 7361 3013

socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk

Tell Us Once

0207 361 3940

New leisure centre will be among best in capital

AN AMBITIOUS project to build a state-of-the-art leisure centre in Kensington will be completed and opened to the public by March next year, council bosses have confirmed.

The new £30 million Kensington Leisure Centre – a long-term vision for the borough council – has already been heralded one of London's finest public sports facilities.

Finishing touches are currently being added to the centre, which will house a 25-metre swimming pool with seating space for up to 250 spectators.

The centre has been built on the same site as the new Kensington Aldridge Academy, where 184 students began the school's first term earlier in the autumn.

Despite delays to an initial target to open the leisure centre in January, council leaders say residents will not have to wait long before they can see inside the "impressive new facility".

A council spokesperson told LWN: "Unfortunately, the leisure centre will not be open to the public in Jan-

By Jack Dixon

uary as we had previously hoped. We believe the centre will be fully operational by early March at the very latest.

"However, the council and the contractor are working hard to move this date forward and to get the cen-

Physical exercise is one of the most important things we can do to stay healthy and we are committed to ensuring that all of our residents can access state-of-the-art sports facilities

tre open as early as possible in the new year.

"As soon as we are in a position to confirm the exact opening date we promise to let local people know."

A total of £29.4 million is being spent on the major new facility, alongside refurbishment of the gym at

Chelsea Sports Centre, in an effort to boost participation in the borough.

The eight-lane swimming pool will cater for classes of all levels of ability, with room for hundreds of spectators in the viewing gallery.

A 20-metre teaching pool with a mobile floor has also been created to complement the larger facility.

A 120-station gym is included in the new centre, alongside an eight-court multi-use hall, two fitness studios, sauna facilities and additional treatment rooms.

Councillor Tim Ahern, the borough council's cabinet member for leisure, has said he expects the centre to stand alongside some of the capital's finest facilities.

At the 'topping out' ceremony recently, he said: "Physical exercise is one of the most important things we can do to stay healthy and we are committed to ensuring that all of our residents can access state-of-the-art sports facilities."

"Our substantial investment in a new leisure centre will ensure that it is one of the best public sports facilities in the capital."

Spending £5 million on opera is 'scandalous' say Labour group

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Labour Group councillors are appalled to learn that the council is planning to make a one-off payment of £5 million to dispose of the loss-making Opera Holland Park.

In what they describe as a "face-saving deal to get rid of the annual embarrassment of losing up to £1million a year on this expensive 18-year vanity project", they claim a proposal has been concocted for a settlement to help re-form the opera into a charitable trust from 2016.

This £5million (plus a loss of interest of £150,000) is intended "to cover losses until 2023", by which time it is hoped the organisation will be in profit.

However, given total backroom costs of £412,000 for staffing, marketing, depreciation, and insurance, it will be an uphill struggle, say the Labour councillors.

And they point out there is no discussion in the documents of how much the council will charge the Opera to use its prime facilities in Holland Park.

A statement from the Labour Group says: "These proposals come within the context of yet another year

of crushing cuts in services.

"The disaster of the new contract for Special Educational Needs children's transport, which put our most vulnerable children at risk, was the result of the 'difficult decision in the face of austerity' to save £447,000 a year – a sum almost equal to the backroom costs of running the Opera.

"A further £415,000 is to be sliced off the Play Services budget, making it increasingly difficult for working parents to find affordable after-school and holiday childcare. And £500,000 has already been sliced from Youth Services."

Labour Group chair Cllr Pat Mason said: "Giving £5 million to set up an independent opera charity is unacceptable when the council plans to slash another £13.5m from vital frontline services next year.

"This includes £3.9 million from adult social care,



■ Cllr Pat Mason

£1.9 million from children's services, and £691,000 from the housing budget, including reducing services to homeless people by £150,000. Spending £5 million on opera when many of our residents are deep in debt, using food banks and seeing services cut is truly scandalous."

'Squeezing the vulnerable'

Public Realm spokesperson Cllr Robert Thompson said: "Against the background of cuts in council services which affect the most underprivileged in our borough this proposal embodies how the ruling Conservatives prefer culture for the few rather than care for the many."

Leader of the Labour Group Cllr Emma Dent Coad said: "It has never been clearer that the council is using the language of austerity to justify ideological decisions.

"The self-professed 'richest council in the universe' can find cash for the opera, but makes 'tough decisions' when it comes to vulnerable and struggling residents.

"Once again Kensington and Chelsea Tories have been caught squeezing the vulnerable to fund indulgence."

AROUND THE ROYAL BOROUGH

Reindeers line up for festive shopping in the High Street

THREE of Santa's reindeers will visit Kensington High Street for some retail therapy and early Christmas fun on Thursday (December 4).

The real live reindeers will be at Bodo Schloss, W8 4PT, while nearby there will be chestnut sellers and a Christmas Market at WholeFoods.

It is all part of a Christmas Extravaganza organised by retailers and businesses of Kensington High Street and nearby villages to entice shoppers to get an early start on their seasonal shopping with shops staying open late and some offering Christmas discounts.

Cllr Maighread Condon-Simmonds, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, will also lend a hand opening the Stratford Road village shops party at 5pm.

Thackeray Street and parts of Holland Street will also be welcoming residents to an evening of festive cheer, mince pies and more. Choirs from the Royal College of Music, St Mary Abbots and Maria Assumpta will cheer shoppers with carols and other seasonal favourites.

Shaping the libraries

LIBRARIES in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea are a popular, well-used resource and the council is committed to ensuring that all six continue to deliver a high quality service.

But, say the council, the way people use libraries is changing and the libraries now offer e-books and digital information and entertainment, as well as more study space, events and activities. Libraries will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the community.

The council wants residents to tell us what services they value most, and what they would like to see in their library that we don't currently offer. Users are being asked to take a few moments to complete an online questionnaire at www.rbkc.gov.uk/survey/libraries/libraries.htm or pick up a paper copy from their nearest library. The closing date is Sunday, December 14.

If you've got a story for the KENSINGTON & CHELSEA NEWS email

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Fight is on to save historic local pub

LADBROKE Grove conservation and community groups are calling on the entire area to rise up and fight developers' plans to turn the historic and hugely-popular KPH pub into luxury flats.

Former Home Secretary Alan Johnson MP and singer songwriter Cerys Matthews CBE are among the hundreds of residents who have already joined CAMRA and the Portobello Café Society in opposing the threat to close one of West London's oldest pubs and landmarks.

An action group, KPH United, has been formed to back landlord Vince Power and to pressure Kensington & Chelsea Council to step in and invoke special powers to block a change of use for the 155-year-old pub.

Campaigners are aiming to see off the developers by applying for official status as an Asset Of Community Value, reinforcing the pub's popularity with all sections of the community, and to protest in defence of its long-standing as a prominent feature of a conservation area.

"The KPH plays an important part in our community and the surge of support to keep it has been in-

credible," said campaign organiser Deborah Hicks.

"Besides the many local events organised by The KPH, it is also the hub for much community activity. Local businesses regularly hold meetings downstairs, a local mother and baby group also meets there, as does the local book club and many others.

"It is popular for parties with many local families who enjoy the roast and free bands playing on Sunday afternoons, it is very much an asset to the community and we don't want this grand old and much-valued landmark of Ladbroke Grove, which has so much history, to be turned into yet more luxury flats."

The Kensington Park Hotel was built in 1860, when there were still hayfields beyond the railway bridge. In the Forties and Fifties it was the local of Timothy Evans, who was wrongfully executed – and later pardoned – for the murder of his wife and child, crimes later attributed to another pub regular, the serial killer John Christie.

The KPH features in the movie *10 Rillington Place* that Richard Attenborough and John Hurt made about the infamous miscarriage of justice.



■ HIGH PROFILE SUPPORTERS: Singer Cerys Matthews and MP Alan Johnson

Last year the long-standing owners Punch Taverns sold the pub freehold to SWA Developments Ltd. The new freeholder has started court proceedings to forfeit Mr Power's lease. The new freeholder has said that if it fails in its attempt to obtain an early termination of the KPH lease, it will refuse to grant a new lease when it comes up for renewal in January 2016.

Campaigners say 'the new freeholder refuses to consider keeping the KPH open as a pub and intends to close the pub at the earliest opportunity and implement its development plans.' The development plans are said to include luxury flats and a ground floor estate agents.

Rock star and BBC presenter Cerys Matthews is leading a social media campaign to stop her local becoming flats for the rich. KPH United has launched a Twitter campaign and a Facebook group and an online petition to galvanize all residents and workers in the area to join forces and push Kensington & Chelsea Council to heed the call of their electorate.

The petition to RBK&C deputy leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Property and Regeneration Cllr Rock Feilding-Mellen calls on the council to withdraw permitted development rights at The KPH, stating that the pub 'has an existing social and community use that is much valued by the local community'.

To support the KPH campaign go to: Twitter @KPHUnited, Facebook facebook.com/kphunited and the petition at chan.ge/1xTcXGB#ladbrokegrove

Prestigious national prize for Westminster teacher

AN English teacher at Westminster Academy has been recognised for raising standards in his school at a special awards ceremony at Haberdashers Hall this week.

Russell Harris was among a pioneering group of teachers, working in schools in challenging contexts across London and the South East, who graduated from TL Fellows, the prestigious leadership development programme run by education charity, Teaching Leaders and funded by the Department for Education on Thursday.

Teaching Leaders is a national charity that addresses educational disadvantage by developing middle leaders in schools in challenging contexts.

Since starting out in London in 2008, Teaching Leaders has worked with over 250 schools in London and the South East as well as a further 480 nationwide. The organisation works exclusively with schools in challenging contexts, and on average, over 50 per cent of pupils in the schools have been eligible for free school meals over the last six years.

The graduation celebrated the hard work that the participants have undertaken in their schools to improve the life chances of children over the two-year duration of the TL Fellows programme, and the impact they have had on the attainment of their pupils. The ceremony was attended by the participants and their headteachers, as well as local and national influencers and supporters of Teaching Leaders.

David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools



RUSSELL HARRIS:
National award winner

addressed the graduating cohort during the ceremony at Haberdashers' Hall. He said: "The Teaching Leaders Fellows programme is a fantastic example of how middle leaders are spreading teaching excellence, driving up standards and closing the attainment gap for disadvantaged children."

"I'd like to thank all the graduates for their hard work and dedication. With their help I hope we can transform the lives of many more pupils in schools in the most challenging circumstances."

Prizes, sponsored by Pearson, were awarded to those middle leaders showing outstanding commitment and making the greatest impact on pupil achievement.

Mr Harris, who is Assistant Senior Leader- KS4 English at Westminster Academy, won one of the three Pearson Prizes for Pupil Impact.

Mr Harris' strong focus on English and literacy meant that he was able to improve English GCSE results by 20 per cent so that 77 per cent of students achieved A*-C in English in 2014 compared to 55 per cent in 2013. Russell's strategies included introducing early morning Friday workshops for teachers and extra after-school lessons for pupils.

He said of the programme: "The Teaching Leaders Fellows programme has been a turning point for me in my career. It has given me the direction, structure and challenge I needed to take on the responsibility of leading a dedicated team of English teachers who achieve outstanding results with their students. I was always inspired by the coaching I received as well as the great network of other middle leaders that I met on the programme."

Schools Minister, David Laws said: "Congratulations to Russell on winning the Pearson prize for impact on pupil outcomes. I'm impressed by his relentless focus on improving his leadership in order to raise the achievement of his pupils. Middle leaders are the engine room of every school and the Teaching Leaders Fellows programme helps develop those high-potential middle leaders like Russell and help them make a measurable difference for pupils in their schools such as Westminster Academy."

Jill Duffy, Vice President for UK Schools at Pearson, said: "I'm really proud that Pearson supports the Teaching Leaders Graduation Ceremonies, and so pleased to be joining the celebrations. We've seen a lot of changes in education these last few years, but it will always be

the teacher who has the ultimate power to engage and motivate.

"The stories we'll hear this evening are testament to the important work that they do. I would particularly like to congratulate the winner of The Pearson Prize for Pupil Impact, Russell Harris, whose achievements are truly inspirational."

CEO of Teaching Leaders, James Toop, said: "I am very proud of what the 2012 cohort has achieved. We have seen them challenge and develop their own leadership over the two years, and they will continue to develop themselves and others in the future through their learning on the Fellows programme. This is an exciting time to be part of the movement as there has been a real drive recently in the education sector for excellence in middle leadership."



RECOGNITION: Left to right, James Coop, CEO of Teaching Leaders; David Laws MP; Russell Harris receiving his award and Jill Duffy, vice president for schools at Pearson

Get your staff to boot camp!

AS 131 million days were lost to sickness in the UK last year, illness is costing businesses a packet. But now Westminster bosses can save money by getting staff fitter through bringing boot camps to the office.

Sandy Donnelly's Dynamic Boot Camp has launched a new central London superfit service to shape up workers in the lunch break.

"Investing in the health, well-being and happiness of the workforce is fast becoming a necessity," said Sandy.

"DBC are here to help with our corporate offering of 45-minute Pilates and 30-minute high intensity interval training classes in the workplace."

"We provide weekly classes before or after work or even a session at lunchtime. All we need is a conference or meeting room for a minimum of eight people, or a park close to the office, and we will tailor-make a programme to fit your team."

"Besides group fitness training we can also provide fully-personalised fitness programmes for each employee and customised nutrition programmes."

DBC launched its programmes to companies at Laborganic Juice Bar in Neal Street last week, with a networking event on the subject of caffeine versus juicing, teaching executives how to reduce their caffeine intake but maintain their energy levels through raw juices.

The Office of National Statistics revealed that 131 million days were lost to sickness absence in 2013 with the average worker going sick for the best part of a week [4.4 days]. The main reason for sickness was back and neck pain, which accounted for 31 million days off, followed by coughs and colds [27 million days] and stress [15 million].

But workers are getting fitter – ten years ago the number of days lost to sickness was 178 million.

London workers are the fittest in Britain, on average losing just 1.5 per cent of their work time to sickness, as opposed to 2.4 per cent of time off ill by workers in Wales, the East Midlands and the North East. The ONS said London workers greater fitness was due to them being younger on average than workers in the rest of Britain.

The ONS statistics show that women are 42 per cent more likely to have a sick spell than men.

DBC also offer corporate super-fit programmes in Spain for companies who want to reward staff with short breaks. For details on bringing a boot camp to the office, see www.dbchealthretreat.com



OFFICE FITNESS PROGRAMMES: Laine and Sandy of DBC

December at Greenwich Dance

Start the festive season in style at the beautiful 1930s Borough Hall.

All welcome, great atmosphere, bar open throughout & party after the show!

Fri 5 Dec 7:30PM

Just Us Dance Theatre

A theatrical experience combining hip-hop, contemporary dance, spoken word & DJing

Sat 6 Dec 8:00PM

The Ball

A night of ballroom and swing with live music from Kai's Cats

Book by
Fri 21 Nov
and get a
free glass
of Prosecco

20% off group bookings of 10 or more

Sat 13 Dec 3:30PM & 7:30PM

Silver Lining

A fast-paced, feel-good explosive new circus show to delight all ages

For more info and tickets:

www.greenwichdance.org.uk / 020 8293 9741

Greenwich Dance, The Borough Hall, Royal Hill SE10 8RE

Fight is on to save historic local pub

LADBROKE Grove conservation and community groups are calling on the entire area to rise up and fight developers' plans to turn the historic and hugely-popular KPH pub into luxury flats.

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● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk



■ THIS is how the KPH looked in 1860 with meadows in the background

Grove, which has so much history, to be turned into yet more luxury flats."

The Kensington Park Hotel was built in 1860, when there were still hayfields beyond the railway bridge. In the Forties and Fifties it was the local of Timothy Evans, who was wrongfully executed – and later pardoned – for the murder of his wife and child, crimes later attributed to another pub regular, the serial killer John Christie.

The KPH features in the movie *10 Rillington Place* that Richard Attenborough and John Hurt made about the infamous miscarriage of justice.

Last year the long-standing owners Punch Taverns sold the pub freehold to SWA Developments Ltd. The new freeholder has started court proceedings to forfeit Mr Power's lease. The new freeholder has said that if it fails in its attempt to obtain an early termination of the KPH lease, it will refuse to grant a new lease when it comes up for renewal in January 2016.

Campaigners say "the new freeholder refuses to consider keeping the KPH open as a pub and intends to close the pub at the earliest opportunity and implement its development plans." The development plans are said to include luxury flats and a ground floor estate agents.



■ HIGH PROFILE SUPPORTERS: Singer **Cerys Matthews** and MP **Alan Johnson**



Leisure centre among the best in the capital

AN AMBITIOUS project to build a state-of-the-art leisure centre in Kensington will be completed and opened to the public by March next year, council bosses have confirmed.

The new £30 million Kensington Leisure Centre – a long-term vision for the borough council – has already been heralded one of London's finest public sports facilities.

Finishing touches are currently being added to the centre, which will house a 25-metre swimming pool with seating space for up to 250 spectators.

The centre has been built on the same site as the new Kensington Aldridge Academy, where 184 students began the school's first term earlier in the autumn.

Despite delays to an initial target to open the leisure centre in Janu-

By Jack Dixon

ary, council leaders say residents will not have to wait long before they can see inside the "impressive" new facility.

A council spokesperson told LWN: "Unfortunately, the leisure centre will not be open to the public in January as we had previously hoped. We believe the centre will be fully operational by early March at the very latest."

"As soon as we are in a position to confirm the exact opening date we promise to let local people know."

A total of £29.4 million is being spent on the major new facility, alongside refurbishment of the gym at Chelsea Sports Centre, in an effort to boost participation in the borough.

The eight-lane swimming pool

will cater for classes of all levels of ability, with room for hundreds of spectators in the viewing gallery.

A 20-metre teaching pool with a mobile floor has also been created to complement the larger facility.

A 120-station gym is included in the new centre, alongside an eight-court multi-use hall, two fitness studios, sauna facilities and additional treatment rooms.

Councillor Tim Ahern, the borough council's cabinet member for leisure, has said he expects the centre to stand alongside some of the capital's finest facilities.

At the 'topping out' ceremony recently, he said: "Physical exercise is one of the most important things we can do to stay healthy."

"Our substantial investment in a new leisure centre will ensure that it is one of the best public sports facilities in the capital."

Mayor's charity carol service



■ JANE ASHER - one of the readers

THE Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds, held her at the annual charity carol service, at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, on Tuesday.

Actress Jane Asher and journalist Sir Simon Jenkins were amongst those giving readings, interspersed with carols. They were be joined by Jacob Rees-Mogg MP and former professional footballer Sol Campbell

Afterwards mince pies were

served in the Lower Hall of St. Columba's Church.

All proceeds went to the charity SANE.

The Mayor said: "More and more lives are affected by mental illness, yet all too often people pass over it."

"SANE, the charity I've chosen to support during my mayoral year, works to improve the quality of life for anyone affected by mental illness as well as raise awareness of the condition."

Rock star and BBC presenter Cerys Matthews is leading a social media campaign to stop her local becoming flats for the rich. KPH United has launched a Twitter campaign and a Facebook group and an on-line petition to galvanize all residents and workers in the area to join forces and push Kensington & Chelsea Council to heed the call of their electorate.

Cerys Matthews Tweeted 'A pub isn't just for Christmas. Pubs matter. Please save ours. Sign our petition.'

The petition to RBK&C deputy leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Property and Regeneration Rock Feilding-Mellen calls on the council to withdraw permitted development rights at The KPH, stating that the pub 'has an existing social and community use that is much valued by the local community'.

To support the KPH campaign go to: Twitter @KPHUnited, Facebook facebook.com/kphunited and the petition at chan.ge/1xTcXgB#ladbrokegrove

Russians are snapping up prime real estate again

RUSSIAN house-buyers are flooding back to Chelsea, buying up luxury homes as asking prices in the area rocket to £30 million for a terraced house and £5.6 million for a one-bedroom flat.

New research by top estate agents Knight Frank has revealed that one in five sales in London's 'super-prime' areas including Chelsea and Kensington have gone to Russian buyers.

"The Russians are back," said Tim Wright of Knight Frank's Prime Central London Team.

"After a period of uncertainty and instability, they appear to have more clarity on where they stand, which has given them the

confidence to get back into the market."

In the six months to October, Russian bought 21 per cent of London's super-prime, £10 million+ homes – an 8% rise compared to the previous six months.

Between January and October this year the number of Knight Frank transactions of £10 million+ homes has shot up by 33 per cent on last year – and is up by 92 per cent on two years ago.

Knight Frank's research has also revealed that for the first time mainline Chinese buyers are busy buying super-homes, now accounting for 3 per cent of sales after 'negligible demand' from China before.

"We are beginning to see some serious interest from ultra-high net worth mainland Chinese buyers," said Tim Wright.

"This interest seems to be in houses rather than flats or investment properties; these are buyers who clearly intend to spend time living in London with their families."

Knight Frank says prices of £10 million+ properties have risen by 48 per cent in the last five years.

Big pockets will be needed to buy the latest luxury home on the market in Tregunter Road, SW10 – where a six-bed Victorian terraced house is now selling for £30 million.

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Mayor joins residents for early festive lunch

ALL SAINTS' TRADERS SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS came early for them gathered for a free festive lunch in a Notting Hill pub.

More than 50 disabled and elderly people over 60 years-old met in the Red Lemon pub on All Saints Road for the special Yuletide treat.

However, organisers said the event had attracted fewer people than expected but were pleased to have been able to distribute the extra food to a church on Lancaster Road to feed homeless people and two care homes in the area.

The event on Wednesday on last week was the second of its type and follows the initial dinner two years ago which attracted around 200 people.

The Christmas dinner was organised by a group of businesses owners along All Saints

Road who wanted to give something back to the community.

The group is made up of Nina Asuni from the Bicycle Workshop, Alli Kyle owner of the Red Lemon pub, Muna Khogali from the Book and Kitchen, Marc Wood, managing director at Edwins Bathroom Showroom, Jacqueline Johnson owner of JDs restaurant and Jo Cassabois owner of Pret a Vivre.

Working together

Mrs Johnston said: "It went really well. We didn't get the numbers but maybe that was because it was a bit early, but we wanted to do it before December.

"Next year we are planning to do it in December to attract more people. We are talking about it already and I know the people who worked together to do this will come together and do it again."

Ms Kyle said they were more than happy to

do it and had shared the costs and did a little bit of the cooking because everybody wanted to give something back to the community.

She added: "I spoke to the food suppliers and they gave us everything at cost price because it was for such a good cause."

The lunch was attended by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds.

Councillor Condon-Simmonds praised the event and the organisers for giving disadvantaged people the opportunity to go out of their homes and be in the community.

She said: "There are quite a few of these committees in the borough where the elderly people and disabled are really thought a lot of. It's the communication amongst the people here which is really important, and which has allowed these people to feel that they can mix with the whole community."



■ **DOING HER BIT:** Jacqueline Johnson, owner of JDs restaurant, who came up with the idea for the community lunch

Inspired to help others

THE festive lunch was the brainchild of Jacqueline Johnson after she volunteered to help feed disadvantaged people one Christmas.

The former community support worker at Ealing Council for 15 years organised the first event after opening her business JDs restaurant on All Saints Road.

Mrs Johnson said: "I worked for the council in Ealing helping people with learning disabilities and what inspired me to do this event was one Christmas I was at home with my daughter and I said 'let's go into work and work with these disadvantaged people'.

"So we went to Raven Park, which is a nursing home, and when we came home we felt really good about what we had done.

"So I wanted to form a committee to cook for these people, and from there I've realised how important it is because these people sometimes don't even get a visitor during the Christmas period.

She added: "This event is important because we all wanted to give something back to the community, that's all it is.

"We all talk to each other and agreed to put it together through the group. We have a strong community within the shops because we are all small businesses, and this shows how we can work together to do something for the community."



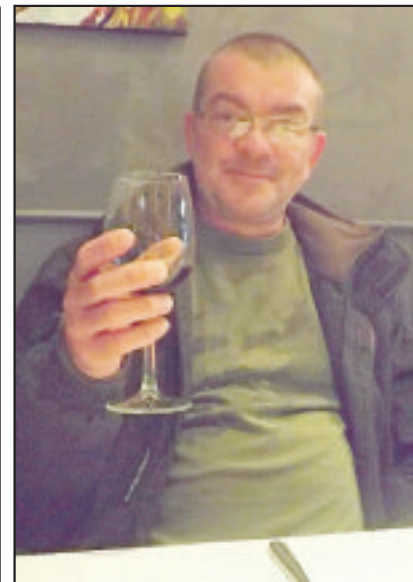
■ **HELPING OUT:** The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds serves Caroline English with her Christmas dinner



■ **PULLING A CRACKER:** Rena Bhagrath and Jasber Singh



■ **READY FOR LUNCH:** Iosom Gaillard, Audrey Martindale and Meg Musea



■ **CHEERS!** Michael Druce enjoys a pre-Christmas tittle

community



■ **CHRISTMAS IS COMING:** Friends gather for an early Yuletide celebration with a traditional festive lunch



■ **TRADERS UNITED:** Nina Asuni from the Bicycle Workshop, Alii Kyle, owner of The Red Lemon pub, Jo Cassabois, owner of Pret a Vivre, Muna Khogali from the Book and Kitchen, Marc Wood, managing director at Edwins Bathroom Showroom and Jacqueline Johnson, owner of JDs restaurant - the organisers and funders of the community lunch



■ **CRACKER TIME:** Gwyneth and Sarah White get in the festive mood



■ **HERE'S TO CHRISTMAS:** Meg McDonald and Caroline English toast the festive season



■ **FESTIVE VOLUNTEERS:** Hoon Kim, Kemar Johnston, Marvin McIntosh and Aurora Cleve help serve up the Christmas dinners

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TCG Co-op MM Premium	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB
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Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Rd	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
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Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
TCG Co-op MM Mainstream	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9ED
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Westminster & Pimlico News pick up points

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Tesco Metro	18-28 Warwick Way	Westminster	SW1V 1RX
Tesco Classic Metro	Dean Street	Westminster	W1D 3RS
Tesco Classic Metro	10-16 Goodge Street	Westminster	W1T 2QB
Tesco Metro	90-100 Edgware Road	Westminster	W2 2EA
TCG Co-op City	19-21 Store Street	Westminster	WC1E 7DB

Penny Market brings colour to Golborne Road

For every two pennies made in profit one penny is donated to a local community enterprises

THE Portobello and Golborne area has a new market, the Penny Market, which is bringing colour, new traders and a definite buzz to a stretch of road between Golborne Road and Bonchurch Road; which had been used as a market in the past but fell into disuse.

Launched at the end of June the Penny Market comprises 12 pitches, with stalls covered by colourful tarpaulins designed by Wendy Zapata and manufactured by market manager David Saiz. The covers mirror the colours of the terraced houses in Notting Hill. In the run-up to Christmas it has been extended to include additional pitches catering for 15 traders and two café stalls.

The market's focus is on organic and fresh food produce and eco-friendly goods, with produce ranging from cheeses, biscuits, specialist soaps and jams.

Manager David Saiz, who was charged with attracting traders, visited established food markets such as Borough Market and Camden Market and wooed some of their traders. But the main emphasis is on developing



■ **DAVID Saiz: 'It is a different market and a local market'**

local entrepreneurs like philosophy graduate Sharea Samuels.

She grew up in the area and decided to create her own business, AuntyD's, which specialises in scotch bonnet chilli jams which are proving very popular with shoppers.

While Portobello Market is known far and wide, the Penny Market fan base derives from the community making it very much a neighbourhood market which is popular with local businesses as well as residents.

Lowry & Barker café uses a pitch as an additional seating area for its customers. Shop manager Grace Jenkins commented: "We use the produce from the stalls in our café. It is a really nice addition for the community and attracts different people."

David Saiz added: "We've had really good feedback from local businesses who are pleased that the variety of specialist stalls are attracting residents. It is a different market and a local market."

Backed by the council, which is giving the pitches rent free for the first year, the Penny Market was set up by Taz Fustok and Oliver Waddington-Ball with a view to improving the local area for the community and also attracting new businesses. The market operates as a social enterprise, for every two pennies made in profit one penny is donated to a local community enterprises like the nearby Goldfinger Factory as well as other local charities, hence its name.

The market runs on Fridays and Saturdays between 9am and 5pm.



■ **AUNTYD'S: Sharea Samuels specialises in scotch bonnet chilli jams**

... and get your produce delivered



■ **MUSHROOM MAN: Tom Dean, above, and fruit and veg trader Cheryl Devlin, below, have joined a scheme to make their produce available online for home delivery**

SOME traders at Portobello Market are now taking orders online which are then delivered to their customers' homes.

The stallholders at Portobello Market, which next year celebrates 150 years trading, have teamed up with the home delivery service, Hubbub, which collects shopping from local independent shops and market traders and delivers the orders to customers.

Fourth generation market trader Cheryl Devlin, who runs the family fruit and vegetable stall, and the Portobello Mushroom Man, Tom Dean, are two of the traders who now take online orders. They update the website hubbub.co.uk with their latest produce available and prices.

Customers logging on to the website input their post code and are directed to local shops so they know they are supporting neighbourhood businesses. Orders must be placed by midday for same-day delivery in one-hour slots, from 4pm to 10pm. Delivery charge is just £3.50 and a customer's first order is free, no matter how many shops they order from.

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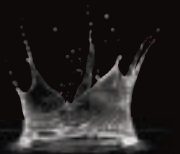
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Andrew Marr: Drawing on political life

STARTING out as a trainee reporter at The Scotsman, before becoming political correspondent and subsequently the editor of The Independent, Andrew Marr has spent the past 20 years successfully climbing the media ladder.

Marr's political commentary could be found in The Daily Express and The Observer, while his broadcast career has reached its zenith with The Andrew Marr Show.

As one of the most recognisable voices covering UK politics, Marr has become a household name, but few people are aware of his secondary love: art.

When the TV journalist suffered a debilitating stroke to the left side of his brain in January 2013, he returned to drawing to aid his recovery.

"To draw something is a way of meditating in front of reality, and I find it a very important way of expressing the way I'm alive," said Marr.

"I've loved it all my life. It's almost spiritual for me."

These days, Marr has reduced his media commitments, giving him time to draw at least once a week.

"Sometimes I draw every day, it's something I do and it connects me to the world around me," he explained.

Marr has joined up with other artists, including illustrators Quentin Blake and Posy Simmonds, to promote The Big Draw; a UK-wide campaign which encourages people to take up drawing.

"It's a campaign for what I'd call the primal way humans have communicated with each other, even before language - think of cave paintings and so forth - and yet it's falling out of our culture because of photography and reproductions of different kinds," said Marr, speaking about his involvement with The Big Draw.

Marr's art therapist at Charing Cross Hospital, London, was integral to his recovery as he channelled his creativity in new ways.

"Painting was an even bigger thing in my life before the stroke, in fact I'd say the biggest problem of the stroke is that I can no longer go outside and paint with oils as I used to do, because I can't manage the easel and setting up the canvas," he said.

"However, my hope is that I'll find a place where I can paint inside; I want to make big abstract pictures next, I've got them in my head, I just need to find a place to go and do them."

According to Marr: "You need something creative in life to express yourself, and the great thing about drawing for those who have spent their time in a literary profession like me is that it's non-verbal, it uses a different part of the brain; it is simply colour and line. It's like diving into a warm bath and seeing the world in a different way around you..."

He may be using the other half of his brain for his nine-to-five, but perhaps Marr has found his two occupations overlap. Did he ever catch himself doodling to pass the time in the House of Commons?

"When I was sitting above them in the press gallery in the old days, I did a detailed drawing of Tony Blair on the day he resigned. I do draw politicians or family and friends sometimes."

He explained that while the majority of his work is landscapes, "I really like drawing caricatures, I think I'm quite good at that."

His health issues have made for an incredibly difficult few years for the political journalist.

Taking a pragmatic approach to it Marr said: "I haven't made a full recovery and the reality is that



■ ANDREW Marr is a patron The Big Draw, the world's largest drawing festival

I won't. I'll be up to 80 per cent if I'm lucky. I won't be 100 per cent ever, and I had to accept that a long time ago, even if you do all the physiotherapy, with a stroke as bad as mine you won't make a full recovery, but you have to find ways of coping with that."

For Marr, art is not only a coping mechanism, but a way of life. And while the effects of his

stroke may be an ongoing battle, Marr is looking upwards and onwards.

"It makes you appreciate and reconsider life, and suck the juice out of the moment, more than I ever did before. I was always a very hurried and rushed person, rushing through life, and I have to move a lot more slowly now, and that's a good thing in itself."

LONDON WIDE

We don't all want to be TV reality stars

NEW research into the career aspirations of young Londoners show they are not fame-hungry reality TV wannabes, but would rather be medics, software developers and engineers.

It also found that young people are surprisingly optimistic about the chances of landing their ideal job - and a hefty pay packet - after several torrid years for youth employment prospects.

Almost half of the 500 16-year-olds polled expect to be earning more than £40,000 after five years of work, whereas the average earnings for someone aged 22 to 29 and in full time work in the UK is currently £21,196. (ONS statistics).

The jobs that proved most popular, ranging from doctors, to software developers, and engineers, are just the skills London needs to thrive as a 21st century city, according to the research for Skills London.

While the traditional 'don't know' still featured highly, only one respondent said they wanted to be a 'YouTuber', and even 'footballer' came in well down the list of ideal jobs, in 16th place.

Top lines from the research include: Almost exactly 50 per cent of student respondents said they were either 'very confident' or 'confident' of getting their ideal job. While a sizeable chunk were unsure, only one in six (16 per cent) were either 'unconfident' or 'very unconfident'.

When it comes to getting any job after finishing education the 'very confident' and 'confident' responses rise to 60 per cent, however, so do the 'unconfident' and 'very unconfident' responses to 21 per cent.

Good qualifications are thought to be the thing most valued by employers, followed by good employability skills and then work experience.

When it comes to earnings, there seemed to be a good deal of realism amongst students for the short term. Just over a quarter said they wanted to earn £15,000 - £19,999 in their first year of work. A further 27 per cent expect £20,000 - £29,999.

However, after five years their expectations rise considerably and are far higher than reality. 18 per cent said they expected to earn £20,000-£29,999 after five years, 27 per cent expect £30,000-£39,999, while a whopping 47 per cent expect to be earning £40,000+ after five years of work.

Mark Hilton, director of skills at business group London First, said after several tough years there was an increased sense of optimism returning to young job seekers.

"The number of young students who think they will land not just a job, but their ideal job, easily outnumbers those who lack confidence in their chances," he said.

"The research also shows London's young students are not the reality TV obsessed, fame-seeking wannabes that they are so often caricatured as. The careers that most aspire to are just the skills London needs to thrive as a 21st century city, such as software developers, engineers, and medics."

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

readers' letters

The politics of envy

■ I HAVE worked as an architect [and saved] all my life to afford a comfortable three bedroomed house in Chelsea.

I am 83 and if this iniquitous mansion tax comes about there is no way I or my widow (much younger than I) could afford to pay 1 per cent of its current value each year to a grasping government.

What is more, we had planned that while still living in Chelsea among our family and friends her need for an income after my death could be met by down sizing.

Unfortunately we would be caught by a 'double whammy', the proposed tax would not only have reduced the value of our present home but would increase the price of properties below the £2,000,000 start point forcing a reduction in her retirement income and possibly a move from central London.

I think this is an example of the politics of envy and brings disrepute on the Labour/Liberal parties.

**Stephen Griffiths, Dip Arch,
FRIBA (ex Socialist)**

Will mansion tax raise any revenue?

■ I think that Labour is scoring an own goal with the mansion tax, because I do not believe that there will be any net revenue raised by the tax. The loss of other revenue as a direct result of mansion tax will far exceed any money raised by the mansion tax.

It is necessary to realise that house price falls might start at the top price brackets but will inevitably work down to affect house prices of all lev-

els. These price falls have already started at the higher price brackets just because of the possibility of this tax. Thus the loss of revenue from lower amounts of stamp duty, capital gains tax and inheritance tax, would involve infinitely more transactions than the mansion tax resulting in huge losses of government revenue.

**Georgina Abrahams
Broomfield Surveyors Limited
London SW3 4QG**

Commercial interest - not people power

■ FIRST of all, we are delighted to have another local paper and hope it will prevail. Rest assured you will be hearing from us regularly.

We were interested to read your front page story, where the leader of RBKC Council, Nick Paget-Brown, speaks of his Conservative group's opposition to the 'Mansion Tax', and announces in extravagant terms his welcome of 'People Power' in the form of the 'Stop the Mansion Tax' campaign.

Kensington and Chelsea Opposition Labour Group has been very public and forthright about our concerns for this proposed tax in its current form; we believe that there will be unintended consequences for some residents, and that it will not catch those 'buy to leave' overseas property owners who are changing the nature of our borough.

We hope the future Labour government will work towards a revaluation of property, and in the meantime consider a review of the Council Tax system to include further bandings, where some will pay less, and some will pay more.

**Councillor Emma Dent Coad
Leader, Opposition Labour
Group
Royal Borough of Kensington and
Chelsea**

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editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

All emails must have a name and address although we may not publish these. Anonymous correspondence cannot be accepted. We reserve the right to edit letters.

More questions than answers over proposed tax

■ THE proposed mansion tax is not going to solve the NHS black hole problem.

It will heavily penalise the older retired residents of the boroughs mainly affected, for example, those who bought leaseholds in the late 1970's and early 1980's and may also have needed to extend their leases subsequently at some expense or even acquire new leases on the same property to enable them to have some peace of mind as lease remainders declined.

As they may now be in their 70s and 80s they may well be cash poor, already squeezed by service charges (main-

nance charges levied by their freeholder landlords and HM Revenue Income Tax

Also what will be the position of married couples who are joint leaseholders (each owning 50 per cent of the lease), and for example, where the wife is not income taxed as her income is below the taxable threshold? Will the mansion tax be levied on the property or on individual owners in which former case the burden would fall on both owners, even though one may have an income too small to permit the payment.

If the mansion tax were to be levied on individual owners and there was an income threshold, would the tax would be

levied only on the major income provider?

This question recently was addressed to our MP Sir Malcolm Rifkind and elicited the reply that the answer was currently not known ...

Your campaign article is excellent. Will enough people see this article and not be too old to be computer literate?

How about a strong message leaflet addressed to residents for completion and return earliest to council?

Strong and immediate action is required.

**George Wyatt
(by email)**

A fitting celebration

■ SEPTEMBER 9th 2015, when the Queen becomes our longest-reigning monarch, should be marked not just with a bank holiday, but also a service of thanksgiving for Her Majesty, spectacular processions and a different concert in each of the Royal Parks.

The day should end with fireworks along the river like those we see on New Year's Eve.

Maybe that will be too much to organise in a year. Whatever is decided, I hope it is fitting for a very deserving and loyal Queen.

**Christopher Jackman
(by email)**

Honour the Queen but also those who served

■ I AM a former Gurkha, working as a caretaker in central London since June 2007.

I enjoyed your front page of the London Weekly News with the picture of Her Majesty The Queen and news about the longest-reigning monarch that the nation has ever known.

I also wish her the very best.

This year in 2014 we remember the 100 year anniversary of the First World War.

1815-2015 will mark the 200 years of Gurkha recruitment in the British Army and the Gurkhas have served the Crown with utmost loyalty for almost 200 years.

It is therefore unfortunate and sad to say that the Gurkhas are still facing discrimi-

nation and human rights violations in the United Kingdom.

We face separation from the families, pension issue and Gurkhas are still barred from the basic voting and human rights issues.

The Gurkhas are still struggling hard to find "status" with the British Government. I am a first Gulf War Veteran and I do not get the same senior pass privilege as my neighbour does from Harrow Council, when I commute to work in Central London by tube and train. I have to pay £14 every day to commute from Watford to Central London to work.

**Yam Gurung (ret'd)
Watford**

How to make a cracking paper even better!

■ CONGRATULATIONS on producing a cracking first issue of the free London Weekly News which I picked up from a west London supermarket. My only quibble is the picture quality.

If improved it would certainly make the paper look even more attractive. Also,

what about a regular page devoted to unleashing the capital's literary talent featuring a short story and one or two brief poems, all with London themes? Successful contributors could be offered complimentary tickets for two to West End theatre shows or various London

attractions like London Eye, London Zoo or a central London bus tour popular with tourists.

**Rudy Otter
Greenford,
West London.**



Be sure to pick up a copy of London's brightest weekly newspaper every week.

See page 7

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London



WEEKLY News

ISSUE 2

PICK UP A FREE COPY

Thursday, December 4th 2014



Kate's £1 billion boost for the fashion industry

LWN

ROYAL
SPECIAL

By Geoff Baker

THE British fashion industry is looking forward to the summer sunshine of a “£1 Billion boost” after the Duchess of Cambridge has her second child next year.

That's the massive sum put on Kate's value to fashion when she gets her fantastic figure back after her baby is born.

The new member of the royal family is expected in April, meaning that the Duchess could be out of maternity wear by the end of May and back into frocks in time for a summer bonanza for designers and high street shops.

The ‘Kate Effect’ has become the No. 1 influence on fashion sales in the UK, USA and around the world, as one might expect of a beautiful young woman who is in the unique position of being wife and mother to two future kings of Britain. Estimated by

Newsweek to be worth £1 Billion a year, the Kate Effect has caused the creation of much-followed websites like www.whatkatewore.com and a fashion app – Kate's Style List – dedicated to telling tens of millions of avid fans what to wear next.

“Everything the Duchess wears is guaranteed front page”

Her favouring of LK Bennett's nude Sledge sent sales of the £245 shoes sky rocketing as they became every girl's fashion-must. After she wore a £175 Reiss dress to meet the Obamas at Buckingham Palace they soon were selling at the rate of one-a-minute.

‘When she wears something it always goes on the waiting list,’

said Tony Di Masso, president of LK Bennett.

Even in maternity wear, the Duchess causes the biggest drive of sales. When she wore maternity brand Seraphine's £46 ‘Jolene’ knitted-front dress in fuchsia when she and Prince William posed for the first photographs with Prince George, the dress sold out in 48 hours.

Because of the global media frenzy that surrounds everything that the Duchess wears, designers of the clothes that she picks know that they are guaranteed front page promotion for their frocks, shoes and handbags in newspapers and magazines in every corner of the world.

‘She is both the perfect princess and the girl next door and the way that she mixes high fashion with the high street *and* is the wife and mother of future kings, has made

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

Inside London's new weekly



Duke of Gloucester unveils memorial to the ‘forgotten war’



Christmas at The Royal Albert Hall

THE paper serving ROYAL London

ROYAL LONDON

The biggest fashion influence on the planet

Manhattan frenzy as Will and Kate star in university fundraiser

■ FROM PAGE ONE

her the biggest influence on the planet for what to wear', said one fashion pundit.

'In effect, she has become Britain's top model; nobody sells more clothes. The degree to which she is boosting the British fashion industry abroad is phenomenal, by rights she really ought to be given her own Queen's Award for Enterprise.'

This week Prince William and Kate will be in New

York for a three-day trip and the frenzy to be in their company has become so excited that wealthy Americans are paying \$100,000 a head for tickets to a fund-raising dinner at Manhattan's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The dinner on Tuesday (December 9) will raise money for St. Andrews University, where the royal couple met as students in 2002, and will mark the institution's 600th anniversary.



Photo by Tim Rooke/REX



Photo by REX



Photo by David Hartley/REX

WHERE TO SEE YOUR FAVOURITE ROYAL

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website www.royal.gov.uk but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

Thursday Nov 27TH

The Duke Of Edinburgh, Admiral and member of The Royal Yacht Squadron, and The Princess Royal, honorary member, will attend the squadron's annual winter dinner at Trinity House EC4.

The Earl Of Wessex, trustee of The Duke Of Edinburgh's Award, will hold a lunch at Buckingham Palace. Later, as honorary member of The Caledonian Club, he will attend the St. Andrews Dinner at 9 Halkin Street, Belgravia SW1.

The Countess Of Wessex, patron of Tomorrow's People, will attend the 30th anniversary awards for achievement at The Jumeriah Carlton Tower Hotel, Cadogan Place EC1.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Royal Colonel of 7th Battalion The Rifles, will attend the Officers' Mess Dinner at The Rifles Club, Davies Street W1.

Friday November 28th

The Duchess of Gloucester, President of the Royal Academy of Music will present the Kohn Foundation Bach Prize at the academy in Marylebone Road NW1.

The Duke of Kent will attend a concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at The Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre SE1.

Sunday November 30th

The Duchess of Gloucester, Honorary President of the Lawn Tennis Association, will attend the Wheelchair Tennis Masters at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park E20. Later, with the Duke of Gloucester, she will attend the Friends of St. Paul's Cathedral Advent Procession Service at the cathedral EC4.

Tuesday December 2nd

The Duke of Edinburgh, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, will visit the First World War exhibition at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon NW9.

The Duke of Gloucester, patron of the Japan Society, will attend a service to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the return of The Clove ship to London at Westminster Abbey SW1.

The Duke of Kent, patron of St. Mungo's Community Housing Association, will attend a carol concert at St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street EC4

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron of Asthma UK, will attend a Christmas Carol Service at St. Luke's & Christ Church, Sydney Street SW3.

Princess Alexandra will attend the Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust Advent Service at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk SW1.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will give an evening reception for members of the Diplomatic Corps at Buckingham Palace.

Wednesday December 3rd

The Countess of Wessex, patron of Shooting Star Chase, will attend a reception at St. James's Palace.

The Princess Royal, president of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at Bell Wharf Lane EC3. Later, as Master of the Corporation of Trinity House, she will attend the 500th anniversary carol service at St. Olave's Church, Hart Street EC3, and, as patron of the Spinal Injuries Association, she will attend a dinner at The Dorchester, Park Lane W1.

The Duke of Gloucester will unveil the Korean War Memorial at Victoria Embankment Gardens WC2 and later, with the Duchess of Gloucester, as Protector he will attend the Anglo-Danish Society's Scholarship Programme dinner to mark its 90th anniversary at Draper's Hall, Throgmorton Avenue EC2.

ROYAL LONDON

At last the nation remembers...

Memorial to the forgotten war

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER TO UNVEIL MONUMENT



■ THE Duke of Gloucester pictured in his role as Royal Colonel of 6 Battalion The Rifles.
Photo by David Hartley/REX

This week the Duke Of Gloucester will unveil a memorial on the Victoria Embankment to those who died in the war that Britain forgot.

The 16ft monument, a bronze statue by sculptor Philip Jackson, is a reminder of the forgotten fact that 60 years ago 1,139 British servicemen died in the Korean War.

In the minutes of silence every Remembrance Day, who reflects on The Korean War? Who even knows *when* The Korean War was or has any idea of what a huge war it was?

The Falklands War, which we all remember, cost the lives of 907 people.

The Korean War of 1950-53 cost more than 3 million lives on all sides.

Those sides were such that this was in effect a third world war. On the one side were the world's principal nations of Communism; North Korea, China and, temporarily, Russia. On the other, troops from 16 Western nations

GEOFF BAKER meets old soldier John Hollands, who fought in the Korean war straight from school

backed by aid and equipment supplied by another 41 countries of the free world.

How is it possible on Remembrance Day, or *any* day, to forget a war that was involved *sixty* nations?

Old soldier John Hollands (pictured below), one of the diminishing band of the British Korean Veterans Association, welcomes the long over-due memorial.

"My passion is to scrub out this awful tag of 'The Forgotten War' and make it into a war to remember," said Mr Hollands MC.

His arms in this fight are two mind-opening books about what it was like to serve and kill in Korea; a brilliant novel, *The Dead The Dying And The Damned* and its even more shocking companion, his memoirs *Heroes Of The Hook*.

It is the second time that John has fought the anti-war cause with *The Dead The Dying And The Damned*. The book was first published by Cassell in 1956; it sold more than three million copies, making the book that is recognised as the finest novel of the Korean War a massive best-seller.

Now, 60 years on, John is self-publishing both the novel and, for the first time, *Heroes Of The Hook*.

"The 60th anniversary of the end of the war in Korea is the last chance I'll get; by the time we get to the 70th, I'll be dead-and-gone," said John, now in his 80s.

Hand-to-hand fighting

John Hollands was almost very much dead-and-gone very often in Korea. He and his platoon were buried when shell-fire crushed and caved-in their dug outs, they were regularly involved in firefights in a conflict which was essentially the first trench war since the time of The Somme and in gruesome hand-to-hand fighting he stabbed to death five men.

It is key to understanding the horror which left him – unknowingly – with post traumatic stress to know that at the time of this slaughter John was a volunteer 2nd Lieutenant, aged 19.

Sixty years on, he admits that

had he known what war in Korea would be like he would not have enlisted. Although he joined 12 Platoon of the 1st Battalion of The Duke Of Wellington's Regiment solely because he wanted to write a war novel, he was, he confesses, clueless of what lay ahead of him.

"I was a terribly-naïve schoolboy when I joined up. I was not so much bullied into it but the bloke who recommended it, my careers master, had done so very much tongue in cheek, he had not expected me to do it. But frankly I was naïve and stupid, I had no

conception at all as to what it was like, I hardly knew where Korea was."

But within months the Army had trained him to kill there. This is how he describes his first ambush of a Chinese scouting party:

"The Chinese stood no chance. It was a massacre. They might just as well have been unarmed. Each one was taken out, just as planned. One or two at the front fired back, but to no effect. Those further behind couldn't fire on account of their comrades being directly in front of them. As their leaders fell to the ground, so the others were exposed before us, waiting to be flattened like targets popping up in a shooting gallery".

More harrowing still is John's account of close-quarter fighting:

"I can recall few details of what happened. In hand-to-hand fighting men rarely do. They develop tunnel-vision and only see what confronts them directly. Everything is instinctive, spontaneous and utterly ruthless. The over-riding skill is to pick out the most vulnerable among the enemy, ones you can surprise, often men already struggling with one of your mates, with no compunction about striking from the rear, just go at them like a maniac and finish them off with a single blow or thrust,

hoping to God that your mates are watching your back, ready to do the same for you.

"I know I sank my bayonet into at least five Chinese. Looking back, I wonder how I did it, but I did, and without hesitation, animal-like in my eagerness. All the time I was yelling and screaming, just like everyone else. Men were killed by any means available. One of the lads was using a spade, another a pick-axe, and a third his steel helmet, slashing the rim of it into the eyes of those confronting him before finishing them off with a knife."

And there was worse endured by this British army that we had shamefully forgotten. John's description of Korea is Kafkaesque, a bleak, grey-muddled hell that was so cold in winter that men froze in their dug-out lines just as generations before them did at Ypres.

Froze to death

"When they first sent British troops to Korea they took two battalions from Hong Kong, The Argyll and Southern Highlanders and The Middlesex Regiment. In the autumn of 1950 the Middlesex turned up in Korea in jungle green uniforms. Some blithering idiot in the Ministry of Defence knew so little about the absolute coldness that they were sent in jungle green. And of course, they froze to death," said John.

"We were treated like dirt, which was common in those days. We literally did get £1 a week when we joined up and the thing that amuses me most, and which infuriated the lads most, was when we did get to the front line and were directed to live in these holes in the ground which were full of hundreds of rats, we got one candle a week. There would be three blokes sharing a bunker, so you'd get three candles to last you a whole week.

"It was crazy, the whole thing was crazy. But the thing is that that generation, my generation, were so used to wartime conditions; rationing, no petrol, that we simply did as we were told. Nowadays, and it is probably a healthy thing, I don't think lads or women of a similar age would stand for it. You couldn't put a lad in a uniform and say 'Well here's ten quid a week', he'd say 'you're joking!' And the rest of the population wouldn't stand for it, but in those days they did."

"My father and mother never murmured that you can't do this to our sons, nobody did. They just took it as our duty and that was it."

I know I sank my bayonet into at least five Chinese. Looking back, I wonder how I did it, but I did, and without hesitation, animal-like in my eagerness. All the time I was yelling and screaming, just like everyone else. Men were killed by any means available. One of the lads was using a spade, another a pick-axe, and a third his steel helmet, slashing the rim of it into the eyes of those confronting him before finishing them off

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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL*Ten days of festival entertainment*

Christmas at the Royal Albert Hall

By Geoff Baker

FOR tens of millions around the world, Christmas proper starts on Christmas Eve with the BBC's legendary broadcast of the carols service from King's College Cambridge. But Londoners can get an early preview when King's College Choir comes to the Royal Albert Hall on December 17th.

The choir of 16 choristers, 14 choral scholars and two organ scholars maintain a tradition which dates back to 1441 when they were founded by King Henry VI to sing daily services at his college chapel.

Although the choir performs on tour around the world, it is best known for the annual broadcast of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College on Christmas Eve.

But at the Albert Hall this year the choir will perform a wider programme which the organisers promise will be "a magnificent concert of heavenly charm".

Ten major events

The programme will include carols plus the Opening Chorus from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Verdi's *Te Deum*, Mendelssohn's Overture to *St Paul*, Rutter's *Sans Day Carol*, a selection from Berlioz's *L'enfance du Christ* which will include the popular *Shepherd's Farewell* and Gruber's *Silent Night*.

Tickets for the King's College Choir concert, which will be conducted by Stephen Cleobury and will include the Philharmonia Chorus and the Philharmonia Orchestra, range from £14.50 to £58.

The choir's concert is one of a season of 10 major Christmas events at the Albert Hall from promoter Raymond Gubbay.

The Christmas Festival 2014 starts on December 13th with the Christmas Carol Singalong at which audiences are invited to "clap your hands, stamp your feet and sing your hearts out" through a programme of carols and Christmas songs led by "irrepressible showman" Jonathan Cohen and featuring the London Concert Chorus, the London Concert Choir and guest star Alison Jear.

On December 14th, the festival gets legier when the Jingle Belles dancers in thigh-high Santaette costume join the London Concert Orchestra, Capital Voices and West End soloists including Laura Tebbutt and Tim Howar to celebrate the season at a matinee, with Christmas pop classics including *Winter Wonderland*, *Blue Christmas*, *Frosty The Snowman*, *White Christmas* and *All I Want For Christmas Is You*.

Massed choir

The singing gets more reverential later on December 14th with the first of three performances at the Albert Hall of *The Messiah*. With the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Brian Wright, Handel's choral masterpiece will be performed by a massed choir of the Goldsmiths Choral Union, the English Concert Chorus and Highgate Choral Society. The soloists will be soprano Elizabeth Watts, contralto Claudia Huckle, tenor Allan Clayton and baritone James Rutherford.

The following evening, TV presenter Chris Hollins (pictured above) will host the BT Christmas Concert of carols and festive hits. The BBC star and *Strictly Come Dancing* winner will introduce a concert of festive delights performed by Tim Howar and Anna-Jane Casey together with the London Concert Chorus, the RAF Squadronaires, the London Concert Orchestra and special guest Amira Willighagen, the winner of *Holland's Got Talent*.

Further details of other events from the Christmas Festival at the Royal Albert Hall can be found at www.raymondgubbay.co.uk. The festival climaxes on Christmas Eve with *Carols By Candlelight*, a concert of carols and seasonal classics performed in 18th Century costume; featuring readings from Dickens by former Doctor Who Christopher Timothy, numerous carols and Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Corelli's *Allegro* and Pastorale from the Christmas Concerto, the Christmas Sequence from Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Jesu Joy Of Man's Desiring* and Mozart's *Laudate Domum* – performed by the Mozart Festival Chorus with the Mozart Festival Orchestra, conducted by Steven Devine and starring soprano Natasha Jouhl.



■ **MAGNIFICENT VENUE:** The Royal Albert Hall illuminated with the Albert Memorial in the foreground.
Photo by Charles Bowman/Robert Harding /REX



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WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London

She's come a long way since her Gordon days

HAVING begun her career as the protégée of the famously fiery Gordon Ramsay, chef Angela Hartnett has gone on to make a name for herself as one of Britain's most well-loved chefs.

Her trademark style is simple but sophisticated Italian cuisine, a love of which was instilled in her by her Italian grandmother and mother.

The 46-year-old is now Chef Patron and owner of the Michelin-starred Murano in Mayfair, has launched Café Murano in St James, the Merchants Tavern in Shoreditch and has revamped the restaurant in the Limewood hotel, Hampshire, as Hartnett Holder & Co.

In 2007 she was awarded an MBE for Services to the hospitality industry.

"I come from a family that always liked food and food was always part of our lives," says Hartnett. "We always ate together as a family and cooked together so it was something I grew up with from both sides – my mum and my dad's. I was taught to cook by my grandmother and my mother. You were expected to help out in the kitchen and learn what to do."

Hartnett's Italian heritage has obviously had an influence on her cooking style. "That's what I grew up learning," she says. "It makes sense that you stick to the things you know best, hence why I do more Italian food than anything else. I cook the type of food that I was brought up on and I know well."

Simplicity yet sophistication is key to Hartnett's culinary style, with a big focus on seasonal ingredients. "You work with what's in season because that makes sense," she says. "You're not suddenly going to put asparagus on in the middle of December. If it's not in season it will taste rubbish."

Hartnett isn't keen on the phrase 'signature dish' – "it sounds like you only cook one thing, when really these things evolve" – but she agrees that "great pastas and risottos" are very much the style of her restaurants.

"That's what we cook in the restaura-

○ CHEF Angela Hartnett talks about her Italian heritage, how she learned to cook and what Gordon Ramsay was really like to work for ...

rants – good, simple, tasty food," she says. "It's not about making it too complicated."

As Gordon Ramsay's former protégée, one might expect that Hartnett had a rough time whilst learning her trade, but she is keen to dispel the image of the hot-headed chef from the TV shows.

Gordon he's a 'top bloke'

"He was great. He was an absolutely top bloke," she says. "If I hadn't worked with Gordon I wouldn't be in the position I'm in now, without a doubt. He taught me about running a kitchen and the importance of consistency. I worked with him for 17 years and you don't work with someone that long if they are intimidating. You work with someone because you enjoy working with them and because they're a good person."

Hartnett will be appearing at the Padstow Christmas Festival this December where she will be holding cookery demonstrations with Luke Holder, the head chef at Hartnett Holder & Co, and Neil Borthwick, head chef of the Merchants Tavern, who also happens to be Hartnett's partner. When asked for advice on the best way to prepare Christmas dinner, she says that preparation is key.

"Be organised and don't leave everything to the last minute. Get your potatoes done earlier, get your veg cooked off, that sort of thing. Keep it simple. Everyone goes overboard at Christmas and tries to do so many accompaniments. I know it is Christmas and a time of celebration but you don't have to go nuts and suddenly do five types of stuffing and three types of potatoes. Do little and do it



■ Angela Hartnett

well as opposed to doing lots and doing it badly."

So does she do the majority of the cooking at Christmas time? Or does this busy chef get the chance to put her feet up?

"No I tend to end up doing it," she says, "as it always seems to be at my house or one of the restaurants, but I have people helping me. Last year we had lots of friends over so the day before we did all the prep together and then on the day you just stick it in the oven and carve it."

Having appeared on shows such as Hell's Kitchen and Kitchen Criminals, are we likely to see Hartnett moving into a TV career like her former boss? "I prefer my work in the kitchen," she admits. "The TV work is good but at the end of the day what makes your business is your restaurant, so you need to ensure that that's running smoothly."

I like doing the odd bit of TV work but I don't want to do it permanently or do loads of it. I'm quite happy just flitting in and out."

The Padstow Christmas Festival takes place between December 4-7.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

CHRISTMAS MESS – serves 8

[From Mark Hix British Seasonal Food, Quadrille Publishing, £14.99]

40-50 chestnuts
2 tablespoons icing sugar
500ml double cream
80g caster sugar
150g-200g cooked meringue

FOR THE CRANBERRY SAUCE
200g fresh cranberries
90g sugar
1 small cinnamon stick
Juice of 1 orange

PREHEAT the oven to 200C/gas 6. Make an incision in the top of each chestnut with a small sharp knife and place them on a baking tray. Bake in the oven for about 20 minutes, then remove and leave to cool.

Meanwhile for the sauce, put the cranberries, sugar and cinnamon stick into a heavy-based saucepan with the orange juice. Stir over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved, then simmer gently for about 20-25 minutes until the cranberries have softened. Discard the cinnamon. Taste the sauce for sweetness and add a little more sugar if necessary. Leave to cool.

Peel the chestnuts, removing as much of the brown skin as you possibly can. Place the nuts on a foil-lined baking tray and dust with the icing sugar. Bake in the oven for about 20 minutes, turning the chestnuts every so often. Remove and set aside to cool.

Whip the cream and caster sugar together in a bowl until very thick, using an electric whisk if you wish.

To assemble, break the meringue into pieces and fold into the cream with about two-thirds of the cold cranberry sauce and two-thirds of the chestnuts. Pile onto the centre of individual serving plates. Scatter the remaining chestnuts on top and spoon the rest of the cranberry sauce over it. Serve at once.



Here's your chance to WIN a superb lunch or dinner for two at either of Mark Hix's latest restaurants, Hixter Bankside or Hixter City.

Hixter

Simply correctly answer the following question and email it to competitions@londonweeklynews.co.uk by Thursday, December 18th.

Q – WHAT IS A PESCE-TARIAN?

1. Someone who only eats peas.
2. Someone who only eats pests.
3. A vegetarian who also eats fish.

*Normal competition rules apply.
The winner will be notified by email after the closing date of December 18th 2014*

... and it's a Very Berry Christmas to you all!



Mary Berry, queen of baking, explains how her Christmas is all about family and food

THERE'S been a distinct lack of Mary Berry on our TV screens since this year's season of The Great British Bake Off ended, but thankfully the expert baker will soon be back with a Christmas special of everyone's favourite cake-based TV show.

This winter, she is also entertaining and educating the nation at The BBC Good Food shows; live events where Berry will be doing cooking demonstrations and sharing her advice on how to make preparing Christmas dinner a stress-free experience.

"The BBC Good Food shows have something for everybody, they are family days and we get quite a few schools coming down on a weekday..."

It is lovely to see so many young people enjoying baking and I think maybe the Bake Off has inspired them, I really like that," says Mary. "It's also a great day out and there's lots to do – and eat! If you want to take a

picnic, you can, but generally people want to try the new foods on offer so there are lots of tasty samples and good restaurants! People seem to come to see everything that's new and to watch the experts cooking, to inspire them to be perhaps a little more adventurous with their own cooking."

Mary herself will be demonstrating main meals, instead of cakes, for a change, at the next BBC Good Food Show, with her TV co-host Paul Hollywood. "We'll be cooking really good family food together and encouraging people to come and enjoy cooking," she says with a smile. "Because of these shows, Paul and I are working together all the time now, which is lovely."

Eschewing glaze cherries and icing sugar for a change, Mary and Paul will be teaching people how to prepare some simple, straightforward festive dishes. "I've got a lovely dish to serve around Christmas time; it is an all in one dish so you don't get too much washing

up, it's chicken with spinach and mushrooms with a lovely cheese topping. And then I'll be doing an instant quick lemon posset in a glass so you can do that the day before and with no gelatine – it's very easy to do."

Meanwhile, when Berry isn't in front of a TV camera, she'll be preparing "classic mince pies and a fairly light Christmas cake" in time for the festive season. It's always a traditional family Christmas for Mary and her brood, who all live within 40 minutes of each other in Buckinghamshire. "We'll either have everybody to us or we'll be going to one of my children's houses, but I'll be helping with the cooking wherever I go," she says.

"I've got my own favourite Christmas recipes; I make a lovely cranberry sauce where I use raw cranberries and just blitz them with oranges, that is a good one," says Mary. "Also, in our house, it's always turkey, I love turkey cooked to perfection and all the trimmings that go with it. It's a very classic Christmas!"

Westminster City School's cadets are privileged to meet Prince Harry

WESTMINSTER City School fell silent for two minutes on November 11th to remember those who have died in service of our country, in particular the many old boys of the school who fell in the Great War.

Headmaster James Wilson said: "Year 10 have been researching the old boys who served in WWI and have produced an informative display for the history department which tells some of these amazing stories."

"Our Army Cadets were invited to attend the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey

and were privileged to meet Prince Harry. They also attended the Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey including a special service for the Queen's Westminster Rifles.

"The Poppy Appeal was set up to help those returning from the First World War. The poppy is a powerful symbol. It is worn to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today and their loved ones."

"Pupils sold poppies to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. Last year we raised over £200 for this worthy cause."



■ PRINCE Harry shakes hands with Seema Solani, Deputy Headteacher of Westminster City School and a number of the Army Cadets at the opening of the Field of Remembrance

Comprehensive School of the Year

THE Cardinal Vaughan Memorial RC School in Addison Road W14 is celebrating after being named Comprehensive School of the Year, for the second year in a row.

Ranked first place in the prestigious Sunday Times Parent Power Guide, Cardinal Vaughan's impressive results at both GCSE and A-Level are the

highest they've been in the school's 100-year history, with 10 pupils obtaining a place at Oxbridge each year.

Headmaster Paul Stubbings said: "Obviously, I'm delighted and especially pleased that the efforts of our wonderful staff and pupils have been so spectacularly rewarded."

Enrichment day at Quinton Kynaston

AS part of the Sixth Form Enrichment Day at Quinton Kynaston School, in Marlborough Hill NW8, Year 12 students participated in the QK Articulation Prize heat.

All students spent the morning researching their ideas on art and architecture, preparing PowerPoints and speeches, and then delivered presentations.

Joanna Charafeddine-Akar discussed Picasso's Les Meninas. Mohammed Osman compared Tom Hunter and his photographs of Hackney with Vermeer. Sema Abbas persuaded the judges to admire Banksy. Sonia Khawar tackled the work of Dorothea Lange. Ola Mohamed championed the body art of Gesine Marwedel. Sara Benchraa analysed Turner's 'The

Slave Ship'. Sara Harb addressed the issues around Tom Piper's Poppies at the Tower. Iman Rasul described the frescoes of Pozzo.

The school was fortunate to have an experienced judging panel in Robin Richmond, artist and historian, Tony Richardson (Financial Times), Kim Catcheside (Radio 4 and Champollion) and Dr Emily Grossman (scientist and BBC presenter).

All were impressed by the intelligence, enthusiasm and potential of the QK students. Third prize was awarded to Ola Mohamed, second to Sara Harb, and Sema Abbas won first prize. Sema will go on to represent the school at the Saatchi Gallery in London on January 12th.

LONDON WIDE

Mayor sets benchmark for schools

WITH London schools continuing to perform well when compared to the rest of the country, the Mayor Boris Johnson is backing citywide efforts to raise standards even further.

This week sees the publication of the second annual London Education Report, which provides an overview of how the capital's schools are performing.

According to Ofsted data there are proportionally more outstanding schools in London than in any other region. Eighty-six per cent of London's schools are rated good or outstanding, with only 371 schools in the capital requiring improvement.

The performance of London's children in key stage 2 literacy tests has improved by six per cent since 2010, with 88 per cent achieving level 4 or above. This is the same rate of improvement as England, although the national rate is now 86 per cent. Sixty-five per cent of London students achieved five A*-C at GCSE including English and Maths in 2013, compared with a national average of 59 per cent.

The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) has also halved between 2006 and 2014.

There are areas where improvement is still needed however, for example, in 2013

only 15 per cent of disadvantaged children in London achieved level 5 or above at key stage 2, compared with 28 per cent of others.

Although in 17+ education London does relatively well in national terms - 86 per cent of young people are staying on for some form of education or training - the drop out level from level 3 programmes across London is high at 39 per cent.

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: 'Congratulations to London schools for their continuing achievements and in particular for the hard work of pupils and teaching staff. You can take enormous pride in equipping young Londoners with the vital knowledge and skills that are demanded by employers and top universities. But there is more to be done.'

"There are still too many young people falling behind, particularly from deprived backgrounds. We also need to do more to ensure all London schoolchildren are performing strongly in STEM subjects and languages, so that we can compete against the highest achieving educational systems internationally."

The last year has seen the implementation of a number of important initiatives to improve London's schooling following recommendations that came out of the

Mayor's Education Inquiry (2011-2012). They include investing in the £24 million London Schools Excellence Fund, as well as the Gold Club, which both aim to raise standards in teaching and subject knowledge.

The London Curriculum, designed to complement the national curriculum, supports teachers to maximise the potential of the capital's cultural institutions, heritage sites and other assets to help bring to life academic learning for pupils key stage 3. The first resources to be published focused on English, history, music, arts and geography and are set to be followed by resources focusing on STEM subjects next summer.

This week, the Mayor launches a new scheme called the London Music Pledge, which aims to boost music teaching in all the capital's schools.

The Mayor has also freed up public land to support the opening of 11 schools, which will provide places for around 7,300 pupils.

• To download the London Annual Education Report 2014 go to <http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-annual-education-report>.

TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ PUBS

*The entertainment scene
in West London*



■ **LOOKING FABULOUS:**
Jerry Hall in her Wicked
Queen costume which she
will be wearing in the Snow
White panto at Richmond.
Photo by Bettina
Strenske/LNP/REX

Jerry playing Wicked Queen in pantomime

By Geoff Baker

OH NO SHE ISN'T? Oh yes she *is*! Jerry Hall is proving herself to be dame for a laugh by playing in panto this year.

Panto? Mick Jagger's ex-missus? It's only rock 'n roll but look behind you? What's next, Keith Richards doing a turn as Buttons?

But before you scoff, canny Jerry has landed herself the coolest role of the year – and she looks *fantastic* in it.

Pantomime has suddenly got hip. Once the preserve of minor stars of fading BBC sit-coms, panto has now become the chic thing to do – coolsters like Lily Allen, Ray Winstone and Harry Enfield have done it with surprise guest appearances at Portabello Panto, Mrs Elvis Presley, no less, Priscilla, wife of the legend, is playing in Snow White up in Manchester and now Jerry is to top the lot by playing the Wicked Queen in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* at the Richmond Theatre, from December 5th to January 11th

'And I can't wait to make fun of myself and hear the children boo at me,' says the mother whose four – Elizabeth Scarlett, James, Georgia May and Gabriel – are the hippest family in town.

The kids may boo, but theatre buffs in the know are predicting massive cheers instead for Jerry as the most fabulous costume in theatre and those so-long legs are going to make this Wicked Queen the No.1 idol of all of the other queens of West London.

'The Wicked Queen is *the* part,' said feminist academic Camille Paglia, 'here's this witch queen who has weird dialogue with a mirror and doesn't have to be charitable or nice. She is fabulous – the temperamental diva bitch.'

Everybody loves the evil stepmother who is obsessed with keeping her looks, partly because she's so glamorous, partly because she's so camp, but also because of the whole new thing about the sexual power of the

older woman. When the American Film Institute drew up its definitive list of The 50 Best Movie Villains Of All Time, the Wicked Queen was ranked 10th overall and the No 1 animated villain. When Disney itself conducted a survey of the greatest Disney villains, she was not only ranked in top place but also won three of the five categories, including the most fashionable villain.

And this is why Jerry's canny, for right now it is hugely fashionable to play a super-glam fairytale bitch – on stage and on the screen. Charlize Theron was a killer queen when she played the world's worst step-mother in *Snow White And The Huntsman*, Julia Roberts was gorgeously-evil in the part in *Mirror Mirror*, and when another re-working of another fairytale, Angelina Jolie's *Maleficent*, well and truly proves it's the year of the cat by taking £504,000,000 at the box office since May, what can a girl do but say mirror, mirror, bring it on.

Very exciting

'It's very exciting, I've never done panto before,' says Jerry. 'But it was always a very big tradition with our family, Mick and I took the children every year to see the Richmond panto.'

'We are thrilled that Jerry has chosen her local theatre to make her panto debut,' says Richmond Theatre's general manager Kate Wrightson.

I bet, not least as this is now widely-tipped as the hottest ticket in town and all of the star's many famous friends are expected to flock to the theatre to hear her get hissed.

Who's the fabbest one of all? Look in the mirror, Jerry.

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs, Richmond Theatre, Dec 5 – Jan 11. Tickets £10-£52.50. atgtickets.com. 0844 871 7651.

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Raunchy comedy at Maxilla Hall

AFTER six years of touring her raunchy and acclaimed one-woman comedy drama from New York to Adelaide, Sophie Gatacre brings it home to W10 when 'Samantha's Hotline' runs at the Maxilla Hall Social Club on December 18.

Hailed by The Spectator as "a work of genius" and "a world class performance" by New York Today, 'Samantha's Hotline' is the timely tale of what happens to a posh Chelsea girl when her husband leaves her and she is forced to make ends meet and provide for her son by turning to sell telephone sex.

The 90-minute production provides an acute but hilarious comment on the consequences of the recession as Samantha goes through 'wild journeys' of character change with her fantasising clients, including role-playing a nun, whilst battling with an increasing addiction to the bottle.

Despite the grim-sounding plot, 'Samantha's Hotline' was hailed at the Adelaide Fringe Festival as 'comparable to Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley in Absolutely Fabulous, Gatacre brings every emotion to the performance and the multiple roles in her play.'

Samantha's Hotline, 7.30 pm, December 18, Maxilla Hall Social Club, Maxilla Walk, W10. Tickets £12.



TALK OF THE TOWN ★ *The entertainment scene in West London*



■ POP star Rihanna wears them at the most posh occasions
Photo by Matt Baron/BEI/REX

Stockings are back in vogue ...but without the store riots!

THEY are 75-years-old next week but sexier and more popular with Londoners than ever.

Nylon stockings mark their big birthday on December 12th, the day in 1939 when DuPont went into mass production of the new invention which sales reps reckoned 'might catch on'.

Encouraging response to limited test marketing in Delaware persuaded DuPont to go to full production but not expecting the fever that followed – when stockings first went on sale in New York, 786,000 pairs sold in one day. In Pittsburgh, where 40,000 women queued for 13,000 pairs on sale, punches were thrown and hair was pulled as women trashed a store

as they fought for pairs in what became known as 'the Nylon Riots'.

These days shopping at Selfridge's for Bluebella stockings is much more genteel, and new research shows although tights took over for a long time since the Sixties, now London women are turning to stockings in great numbers again.

Big uplift

'There's been a big uplift in sales as part of the 50 Shades Effect and sales of our 50 Shades line are going fabulously,' said Bluebella's founder Emily Bendell.

'The book encouraged women everywhere to be a little more daring. Hold-ups are really popular now, the most popular being the elegant deep-

lace hold-up. In our fashion collections, the fun and frivolous bow-top stockings are very popular too.'

A survey of Londoners by Bluebella has revealed that the average woman buys five sets of lingerie each year, spending around £200, and 84 per cent of women polled admitted that they have a special 'seduction set.'

However, not all women are fans of the seemingly-complex process of dressing in stockings – 54 per cent of those polled by Bluebella said they found them 'a faff' to put on and wear.

More surprisingly was the survey's finding that 22 per cent of men said they did not like women in stockings.

Riverdance returns to the Appollo

IT WAS only meant to last for seven minutes, but it has run for 20 years.

The most successful dance act of modern times, Riverdance, returns to London for a brief anniversary run next week.

It was 20 years ago when Riverdance was booked to just fill the seven-minute interval while judges at the Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin deliberated on who should win the 1994 event.

Whoever did win has become irrelevant because it was the interval-filler that became the triumph of the night, receiving a thunderous standing ovation which has pretty

much continued ever since. The music got to No1 in the charts, the video did the same and stayed in its charts for seven months, Riverdance stormed America and everywhere else and by the time of its 400th performance just two years after 'that interval' it had been enjoyed by 1.3 million people.

The last time Riverdance played at its London home of The Apollo, it ran for three and a half months. This time, it's back for only three days. If you haven't seen it, go – it is a legend.

Riverdance, Hammersmith Apollo Dec 10-13. Tickets from £34.



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SPORT FOR ALL

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Blues top agent fees list again

WHO says money can't buy happiness? Table-toppers Chelsea spent more on agents' fees – £16.8m – in the past year than any other Premier League club in their pursuit of quality players.

PL clubs paid £115m to agents over a 12-month period that includes the two most recent transfer windows. The figure represents a leap from the £96m spent the previous year.

For the second year in succession Chelsea spent the most (£16,771,328), followed by Liverpool (£14,308,444) and Manchester City (£12,811,946). Spurs were the only other club to break the eight-figure barrier, paying out £10,983,011, while Arsenal's figure was relatively little at £4,293,407.

The calamity of Fulham's relegation from the top flight last season is compounded by the fact that The Cottagers shelled out £2,902,676 in agents' fees – only £1.3m less than the Gunners, who finished fourth last May, qualified again for the Champions League and signed Alexis Sanchez and Danny Welbeck in the summer.

Fulham spent more on agents than three clubs who managed to avoid the drop: Southampton, Aston Villa and Hull City.

The figures relate to payments made between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014 and include payments made by the clubs on behalf of players.

Chelsea splashed out a combined £82m on summer signings Diego Costa, Cesc Fabregas, Didier Drogba, Loic Remy, Filipe Luis and Mario Pasalic (on loan to Spain La Liga club Elche) during this annual results period but early indications are that they have invested wisely and will reap dividends.

■ IT was not all plain sailing for Chelsea in Germany last week. Just hours before Jose Mourinho's men swept aside ex-Blues boss Roberto Di Matteo's Schalke side, 5-0 in the Champions League, the Bundesliga club's under-19s ended their Chelsea counterpart's 100 per cent record in the UEFA Youth League with a 2-0 win at the Stimberg Stadium.

However, the young Blues still dominate their group after four previous emphatic victories: 4-1 at home to Schalke, 5-0 at Sporting Lisbon, 2-0 against Maribor at home and a 7-0 mauling of the same opponents in Slovenia.

The final Group G game is against Sporting Lisbon at Cobham next Wednesday (Dec 10).

■ CHELSEA Under-21s will begin their Premier League International Cup campaign against Germany's Borussia Monchengladbach on Friday, December 19 (7.00pm), with the venue to be confirmed. The young Blues will then face Norwich City on Tuesday, December 23 (2.00 pm) at Aldershot Town FC, before completing the group stage at the same stadium against Porto of Portugal on January 14 (7.00pm).

Blue & White In Brief

■ CHELSEA Under-18s fought back from two down to claim a point after second-half goals from Isaac Christie-Davies and the league's top scorer Tammy Abraham earned a 2-2 draw at Southampton last Friday.

Abraham grabbed the equaliser – his 19th goal of the season – when he completed a brilliant move with an expert finish after Christie-Davies brought Blues back into it with a beautiful chip from 15 yards that floated into the far corner.

Goals from Olomola and Sims gave the hosts a 2-0 half-time lead against a youthful Chelsea side resting several of their more experienced players ahead of last Tuesday's (Dec 2) FA Youth Cup third round tie at Leeds United.

The creditable draw keeps Chelsea top of their division, just ahead of Leicester City and Spurs on goal difference.

Blues' free-scoring under-18s have scored 41 goals so far this league season. No other South League team has more than 28.

Chelsea: Collins, Wakefield, Grant, Suljic, T.Chalobah, Sammut, Ali, Christie-Davies, Muheim, Palmer, Bolkiah.

■ FULHAM U18s suffered a 2-0 home defeat to Leicester City last Saturday.

Fulham: Norman, Fossey (Sessegnon 67), Opoku, Smile, Elworthy, Adeniran (Thomas 75), Nabay, Buffonge (Thompson 75), Shamsi, Walker, Humphrys.

■ SEKO Fofana joined Fulham on a temporary deal from Manchester City just prior to the loan window shutting last week.

The 19-year-old will remain at Fulham on a youth loan until January 31, 2015.

A French youth international, Fofana arrived at The Etihad in 2013 from Lorient and went on to establish himself as a key member of Patrick Vieira's Elite Development Squad, making 35 appearances in 2013-14.

A box-to-box midfield player, he has continued to be a mainstay in the team this season.



High flying Hawks lead

FULHAM Hawks Handball Club offer handball sessions to beginners and experienced player, both men and women, aged 16-plus.

FHHC was formed in 2012 by Get Set Go Sport after the London

Olympics as a community sports project and has grown from strength to strength. They are an affiliated club with England Handball and compete in the 2014 Men's Regional Development League.

They are currently top of the London League, having won all four of their games this season.

The club is based in EHWLC (West London College Hammersmith Campus) on Giddons Road at Baron Court, W14 9BL.

The sessions are: Saturday - 11.00am to 12.00pm (Women); Saturday - 12.00pm to 2.00pm (Mixed); and Wednesday - 8.00pm to 9.15pm.

For further details, phone Jennifer on 07830 323 839.



FOOTBALL FIXTURES...FOOTBALL FIXTURES...FOOTBALL FIXTURES...FOOTBALL FIXTURES...FOOTBALL

Friday, December 5
FULHAM v Watford (Sky Bet Championship), 7.45.

Saturday, December 6
Newcastle Utd v CHELSEA (Barclays Premier League), 12.45pm.
CHELSEA U18 v Leicester City U18, 12.00.
Reading U18 v FULHAM U18, 11.00.

Monday, December 8
West Ham Utd U21 v FULHAM U21, 7.00pm.

Wednesday, December 10
CHELSEA U19 v Sporting Lisbon U21 (UEFA Youth League) at Cobham (no spectators admitted), 1.05pm.
Crewe Alexandra v FULHAM U18 (FA Youth Cup 3R), 7.00.

Running 5km is a piece of cake

FULHAM Running Club members continue to clock up personal milestones that mean they can have their cake and eat it.

Following Bob Lynham's 100th parkrun two weeks earlier, they had two 50th parkruns to celebrate last week thanks to the efforts of Julia James and Leo Palazzuoli.

Leo, from Winchendon Road, SW6, is a tax partner at PWC, while Julia is a teacher from Petley Road, W6.

FRC secretary Charles Craven told LWN: "It is only recently that we have celebrated these landmark achievements but will continue to do so. The cake is a big incentive and becoming a parkrun tradition!"

Parkrun started in Bushey Park 10 years ago and there are now over 300 of these 5km runs all over the country and more abroad. It is growing exponentially.

Charles continued: "The Fulham Palace Parkrun is just over a year old and organised completely by volunteers. Leo did all his 50 runs in Fulham, so barely missed a week since our local one started. Julia ran some at Wimbledon, Richmond and Wormwood Scrubs (other local parkruns)."

The popular Fulham Palace Parkrun regularly attracts over 200 runners to this free, timed, 5km run around Bishops Park.

■ If you would enjoy running by the river, then why not join Fulham Running Club free. Members meet every Wednesday at 6.45pm at the corner of Bishops Park and Fulham FC's Craven Cottage ground.



Fulham Running Club members take a breather. Top left: Julia James and Leo Palazzuoli get ready to cut the cake.

SPORT

Thursday, December 4th 2014

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Diego Costa was lucky not to see red at Sunderland.
Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Ruud awakening for Blues

RUUD Gullit believes his former club can learn valuable lessons from Saturday's goalless draw at Sunderland – the first time Chelsea had failed to score in 20 matches this season.

They were unable to break down a resolute Sunderland defence, well organised by Black Cats manager and ex-Chelsea star Guy Poyet, who deserved plaudits for winning the tactical battle.

As Gullit, who made Blues one of the most talked about teams in Europe as a player and then player-manager between 1995-98, pointed out: "Chelsea will have to face this situation more and more against so-called lower teams and they have to find solutions. It's a good thing that this has happened now because they will analyse it and see what more needs to be done."

The Dutchman, who guided the club to its first trophy success in 26 years when he lifted the FA Cup in 1997, was not being a 'clever clogs' in his post-match analysis of what went wrong for Blues in the North-East. He pinpointed the problem area when he told Sky Sports viewers: "They have to be disappointed about their own performance, especially tactically. They played the whole game inside and that was exactly what Sunderland wanted them to do. It was easy for Sunderland and the fault of Chelsea."

● By LWN reporter **Tony McDonald**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

"It's a great compliment to Sunderland but, tactically, it wasn't clever what Chelsea did. They had low pace, no width at all and only six shots on target, which is not normal for them."

"If there are all these people inside, there is no space and they had to shoot from long distance. If it's not working, then try something different, but Chelsea didn't do that."

"Just because you have a lot of possession, it doesn't mean that you earn victory. You need to create chances but Chelsea didn't create any."

Willian came closest to scoring for the visitors but his fizzing, low shot from outside the box rebounded from the base of the post, although Sunderland grazed Thibaut Courtois' crossbar from Vergini's rising close-range effort.

Eden Hazard has been the best dribbler in the Premier League this season but at Sunderland he kept running down blind alleys, into a red and white brick wall. And he didn't dribble nearly often enough, usually opting to play a simple square pass instead of running at the heart of the home defence and inviting fouls in dangerous areas.

Defending for most of the first half, Sunderland strung six players across the last third of the pitch and Chelsea found no way to penetrate. On one of the few occasions that their full-backs ventured deep into home territory, Branislav Ivanovic was unlucky to see his shot deflect off keeper Pantilimon's calf and loop onto the roof of the net.

In praising Sunderland's rearguard action, Mourinho was probably attempting to deflect attention away from his team's lack of imagination and movement in forward areas.

The fact is, Chelsea lacked inspiration, creativity and offered little width, especially in the second period as Sunderland grew in confidence. In fact, this could have ended much worse for Blues, for it was Sunderland who created the two best chances and should have snatched all three points had Adam Johnston not wastefully scuffed his shot wide from 12 yards in an attempted late smash and grab raid.

A fifth PL yellow card of the season ruled Diego Costa out of last night's (Dec 3) home league clash with Tottenham but the Spanish striker could easily



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

have been shown a red card on two occasions, which would have led to a three-match suspension. He was initially fortunate to escape a card when he kicked out after a bruising halfway line challenge from John O'Shea – who no doubt helped Costa's cause by making nothing of it – and then for sending his flailing right arm into the face of Wes Brown as they contested a high ball.

"Costa was lucky not to be sent off, he got away with it," said Gullit.

"You could see the frustration in him. And the frustration comes because everyone was playing in the middle of the park, so he had no room and no shots at goal because everyone was around him – he had nowhere else to go. Sometimes I saw him going into wide areas because he couldn't play."

Fearing his leading scorer was teetering on the brink of self-implosion, Mourinho removed Costa with 15 minutes to play, sending on both Didier Drogba and Loic Remy, followed by Andre Schurrle, in a vain attempt to claim all the points. It would have been very harsh on Poyet's team of warriors if they had.

Gullit – surprisingly sacked by Ken Bates in February 1998 even though Blues were second in the Premier League at the time – still believes Mourinho's side will go on to win the league. He also reckons the rare shut-out at Sunderland could prove a blessing in disguise for the table-toppers.

"When you are a powerhouse team and want to win the league, this is what you are going to get. When you win all the time, people are going to close you down and it's your obligation to find solutions to that. We saw a lot of examples of how Chelsea played through the middle all the time and when you play against a team who defended as well as Sunderland did, you can't play through the middle."

"Occasionally you are going to get away with it but when you become tired, as Chelsea did at Sunderland, you will get stuck. So have width, get the passing going and then you will create chances."

It was not as if Chelsea were in the dark about what could lay in store for them at the Stadium of Light. Poyet was bidding to become the first manager to inflict three successive defeats on Mourinho. Sunderland were 2-1 winners in the Capital One Cup quarter-final last December and repeated the scoreline in west London as Mourinho's 77-match unbeaten run at Stamford Bridge came to an end in April.

It was Gullit who signed former midfielder Poyet for Chelsea on a free transfer from Spain's Real Zaragoza in the summer of 1997.

Not that Blues' fans will lose much sleep over the latest result against Sunderland. Their team is still unbeaten at the top of the PL and last week cruised through to the knockout stages of the Champions League with an emphatic 5-0 slaughter of Schalke in Germany. This Saturday they visit Newcastle United for the televised lunch-time game.



Focus on Craven Cottage

Cheeky Bent gets it in the ear

FULHAM showed their fighting spirit as second-half goals by Hugo Rodallega and Lassen Vigen Christensen clinched a late 2-1 victory at Brighton on Saturday.

"It was a fairly even game but it was there for the taking and we did that," said manager Kit Symons. "We showed real character to come from a goal behind. We had to weather an early storm, we didn't start particularly well but we stayed in the game."

"I had words to the whole team about what we needed to do better at half-time. We needed to move the ball quicker and be a bit brighter in some of our play. We were certainly better in the second-half. We created a fair few chances and I was delighted with the win."

Cheered on by 3,000 travelling fans, the visitors trailed to Darren Bent's 52nd-minute strike but hit back when Christensen teed up Rodallega for a fine finish, before the Danish youngster stuck out a leg to divert Bryan Ruiz's mishit shot past former Fulham keeper David Stockdale 13 minutes from the end.

"I'm definitely claiming it!" Christensen told Fulham's official website. "Not that I intended to put it in the corner but I tried to get something

on it. I think Bryan shanked his shot a bit and I just stretched out a leg to try and get something on it and straight away I thought it would go somewhere good."

It was the perfect riposte to Bent. The former England striker joined the Seagulls on loan from Aston Villa last week and made an immediate impact at the Amex Stadium with the opening goal early in the second half, although keeper Marcus Bettinelli – who had made some fine saves – would have been disappointed to see the ball slip through his legs.

Bent then irked Fulham fans by 'cupping' his ears to them as part of his goal celebration... before Rodallega had a diplomatic word with him! It was a bit cheeky of Bent to taunt. He scored just six goals in 30 games while on loan as Whites were relegated last season.

Rodallega – or 'Godallega' as he is now known in these parts – had a busy weekend re-tweeting endless social media messages of congratulations from Fulham fans quick to praise the Colombia for his fifth goal in six games and eighth of the season. In truth, he could have had a hat-trick but the winner was a class finish, clipped into the top corner of the

net from 12 yards.

Symons gave first team debuts to two youngsters. Jack Grimmer, 20, who was recently recalled from his loan spell at Shrewsbury Town, took over from Elsad Zverotic at right-back, while 19-year-old Manchester City loanee Seko Fofana replaced Emerson Hyndman in central midfield just after the hour mark.

Victory at Brighton saw Whites climb up to 16th place in the Championship table, nine points off the play-off places. Next up is a home date with Watford this Friday night (Dec 5) in front of the Sky Sports cameras.

"We've got our foot on the accelerator now and I just want to keep on trying to improve every week," continued Symons. "It's going in the right direction and I'm very pleased with the response I've had from the players, staff and fans. It's been brilliant and I couldn't have asked for more."

"We've got one eye over our shoulders. I wouldn't get blasé about it, as you can very easily get sucked back into a real scrap in this league. I'm fully aware of that and I'm under no illusions that it will be tough to climb our way up the table but I also know it's very achievable."